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Golden Gate Audubon Society

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THE GULL



THE MAY MEETING

Least Terns and Handcarved Birds

The May meeting will hear a report from Laura Collins who has been studying the Least Tern nesting colony at the Oakland Airport and the Alameda Naval Air Station for the past three years. Some of the support for her study has come from GGAS.

It is interesting that this endangered species, whose historic breeding range formerly came no further north than Monterey, has established a small but successful nesting colony in the East Bay.

During an intermission GGAS members and guests will have time to see a display of beautiful handcarved birds, the work of five of the Bay Area's finest bird carvers. There will be both carving and painting demonstrations. The birds on display will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds going to support the Least Tern study. (Remember, "real birders" collect bird carvings.) The second part of the program will include a thirty minute film portrait of New England's Wendell Gilley, a man largely responsible for escalating bird carving from functional hunting decoys to a fine art.

Plan to attend, and bring a friend. It will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Arlington, Berkeley on **Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

— PROGRAM COMMITTEE

FOR THE BIRDS — a Wine Tasting

In place of GGAS's traditional annual dinner, the Society is sponsoring a special wine and cheese tasting to raise funds for Audubon Canyon Ranch. Please put **Sunday, June 10 at 2 p.m.** on your calendar for this outstanding event, to be held in the Lyford House at the scenically beautiful setting of the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon.

Our wine is being donated by Dr. Martin Griffin, co-founder of Audubon Canyon Ranch and owner of Hop Kiln Winery, who will be on hand to tell us about the early days of Audubon Canyon Ranch and the challenges of starting a winery. Dr. Griffin is now the Public Health Director of Sonoma State Hospital. Hop Kiln Winery has developed a well-deserved reputation of producing some of

the best wines in northern California, from very popular blends such as Thousand Flowers and Big Red to fine varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon. It has won 35 top medals, including several prized Double Gold Medals from the Sonoma Harvest Fair. Dr. Griffin plans to share some of his finest wines with us, including a few medal winners.

The co-host and donor of the cheeses and other edibles will be George Peyton, former National Audubon Director. A special feature of this benefit is that every penny you donate goes directly to Audubon Canyon Ranch, particularly for its education programs, with nothing deducted for expenses. To encourage attendance, an extremely reasonable donation of \$12.50 per person is being requested. Reserve your place at this special wine and cheese tasting by making out your check payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society and mailing it promptly with the names of those attending to our office at 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley CA 94705. Reservations and checks must be received no later than Friday, June 1 to assure attendance. Help us make this benefit a big fund-raiser for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

For those able to join us, there will be a general Golden Gate Audubon Society membership meeting at 1:30, immediately before the wine tasting at the classroom at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center.

ELECTION

Don't overlook the ballot on page 75. It is that time again. Call if you'd like to help on a committee.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR May (1984)

Saturday, May 5 — Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park. See April Gull.

Sunday, May 6 — Mt. Diablo State Park. See April Gull.

Wednesday, May 9 — Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot in the park. Take Hwy. 580 east, watch for the turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the signs to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Northern Orioles and resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, May 12 — Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. See April Gull.

Saturday, May 19 — Five Brooks Trailhead and Inverness Ridge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H. From Hwy. 101 exit at Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and go east to the terminal. From the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge go south toward San Anselmo to the terminal. We will carpool from here to Five Brooks (about 5 miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We should arrive by 9 a.m. Pack a lunch and wear hiking boots for a five-mile walk up Inverness Ridge (a climb of about 1000 ft.) We should see a fine variety of spring migrants and, hopefully, Purple Martins. Leader: George Hugenberg (435-2646). (✓)

Saturday, May 26 — Mt. St. Helena. Meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Ida Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 128, 6.3 miles north of Calistoga. Bring lunch and liquids. Carpool if at all possible because parking is very limited and we must caravan to bird the road. Call

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the GGAS (843-2222) office and leave your name and phone number by May 21 if you plan to go on this trip. Leader: Dick Johnson (530-7118) (✓)

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3 — Birding by Ear in Yosemite. The lower elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with sound in early June. A variety of habitats produce a rich diversity of birdlife, typically including 7 flycatchers (including 4 Empidonax), 3 vireos, and 7 warblers and many other species in full song and breeding plumage.

Meet at Hogdon Meadow Campground campsite **Friday, June 1 at 3 p.m.** and **Saturday, June 2 at 8 a.m.** To reach the camp, turn left (north-east) off Hwy. 120, 0.1 mile past the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and proceed to the back lower portion of the campground. Because last minute changes in campsite may have to be made, before you leave be sure to call the leader (prior to May 25) or the GGAS office (843-2222) after that date. Also, if you can come up early and help us occupy a group site starting Thursday, May 31, please call the leader.

The nearest motels are 20 miles or more from the meeting place. If you are approaching from Merced, try the small town of El Portal (AAA book.) On the north side, try the Sugar Pine Ranch Motel near Groveland along Hwy. 120 (209-962-7823). Yosemite Valley is 30 miles from the meeting place.

Bring warm clothing, raingear, boots (for wet meadows), pack a lunch and plan on walking about six miles. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106) (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, June 9/10 — Mono Basin. Meet at 8 a.m. at Mono County Park 5 miles north of Lee Vining and just east of Hwy. 395. To get to Mono Basin take Hwy. 120 over Tioga Pass to the town of Lee Vining and proceed

north to the meeting place. An alternate route is around Lake Tahoe to Hwy. 395 and then south to Mono County Park. We will spend Saturday birding the north side of the lake looking for common residents in the cottonwoods around the park and the juniper/sage habitat north and east of the lake as well as the lake edge itself.

On **Sunday** we will meet at South Tufa at 8 a.m. Take Hwy. 120, turn east and proceed to the entrance of South Tufa State Reserve. We will meet in the parking lot. We will bird this area and the Jeffrey Pine forest south and east of here looking for Grey Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers and other Mono Basin specialties.

Be prepared for hot, bright sun and/or cold wind and rain. The elevation of the basin is 6400 ft. and the temperature may drop at night. Bring lunches for both days and be prepared to hike. It would be advisable to bring an extra pair of boots for Saturday when we hike through the "MONO muck".

Forest Service campgrounds are available southwest of Lee Vining in Lee Vining Canyon and North of town up Lundy Canyon. Motels in Lee Vining include: Best Western Lake View Motel (714-647-6543), Gateway Motel (714-647-6467) and Murphey's Motel (714-647-6316). Leaders: Helen and Paul Green (526-5943). (✓)

ANNUAL MEETING OF GGAS

Our annual meeting will be held on June 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. It will be followed at 2 p.m. by a wine and cheese tasting fund raiser for Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Summer Camping Trips. Details for these and additional summer trips will be in the June and July/August Gulls.

Saturday & Sunday, June 23-24 — Yuba Pass. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199).

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 29-July 1 — Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked √). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

MARCH OBSERVATIONS Through March 27

STILL WINTERING

In March stake-out rarities outnumber new discoveries. Persisting waterbirds included the Red-necked Grebe in Foster City (DT), an Oldsquaw at Bodega Bay (HA), four Lesser Golden-Plovers at Spaletta Ranch all month (AG,WG), two American Black Oystercatchers in Richmond to Mar. 19 (BR), the Solitary Sandpiper near Inverness through Mar. 14 (AG, WG), Rock Sandpiper at Pebble Beach Mar. 14 (AIE), and both Little Gull and Common Black-headed Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds through the period (mob). Early this month the Stockton Municipal Utility operators strung monofilament lines over primary and secondary treatment tanks to prevent the gulls feeding in them and thus stop the gulls droppings from fouling equipment. This seems to have been 100% successful; all of the gulls now feed and roost together, only at the

northeast corner of the sewage ponds where the waste water is pumped in. Unless the loss of the tank feeding "habitat" substantially reduces the area's ability to attract and hold rare gulls, these gulls should be more easily and reliably observed in the future, always being in a single, very accessible spot.

Since at least 1971 an escaped/released Brown Wood Owl (native of southern Asia) has inhabited Berkeley near Cordonices Park. On Mar. 23 it was hooting and prowling the neighborhood, to the delight of birders who had just learned of its existence (CK, CaK, RM).

Other continuing landbirds included the adult male Costa's Hummingbird in San Rafael to Mar. 15 (CF), Golden Gate Park's Wood Thrush at least to Mar. 23rd (whisper-singing from the 16th - DL, mob), female Black-and-white Warbler at Stinson Beach to March 18 (BDP), male Summer Tanager at North Lake in Golden Gate Park to Mar. 4 (MLR, et al.), and single Lapland Longspurs rediscovered or returning to Spaletta Ranch in early March (DN) and Hayward Regional Shoreline Mar. 11-24 (BR).

MORE WATERBIRDS

Two distressed Laysan Albatrosses were found inland and taken to rehabilitation centers. One in Foster City Mar. 8 had a broken wing and died soon afterward (fide BK, et al.). The other was encountered grounded in Benicia Mar 24 (LW,CW). Weak and thin, at this writing it is surviving at Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum (BS). We still know little about the origin of the Bay-side Laysan Albatrosses, but another case of several landing aboard ship and riding to port has been reported from southern California (fide JM).

A Cattle Egret remained at Palo

Alto Baylands Mar. 3 (JG) and two were seen there Mar. 17 & 22 (CR, BB). One visited Lake Merritt Mar. 1 (HC, RNSC). A Flock of 50 Cattle Egrets just east of Gustine Mar. 4 (MS, et al.) were not late enough to suggest breeding. Up to three more favored Hayward Regional Shoreline Mar. 11-24 (Br, JM, et al.).

Although Brant is a common spring migrant along our coast, one seldom strays inland at this season, as one did to Alameda South Shore (CS, KC, et al.). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Mar. 10 to 25 (B Lab, SCBC, mob) represents a rare sighting of a rapidly disappearing species. A male Tufted Duck stopped at Stockton Sewage Ponds Mar. 17-22 (DY, et al.).

A Baird's Sandpiper at Lodi Sewage Ponds Mar. 21 (DY) was very unusual in spring but not unprecedented in late March (fide JM). Similarly very rare but fitting within prior records was a Ruff at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Mar. 10 (B Lab, SCBC). A first year Glaucous Gull was at Princeton Harbor Mar. 11 (RT).

NEW LANDBIRDS

A calling Northern Pygmy-Owl was heard closely and well-described from Big Springs Fire Rd. in Tilden Regional Park just after dark Mar. 12-14 (CK, RM, GM). This species is almost unknown in the Berkeley / Oakland hills.

A Tennessee Warbler found at El Polin Springs, Presidio of San Francisco, Mar. 4, stayed at least to Mar. 21 (MLR, JZ, et al.). Gazos Creek, San Mateo Co., was host to a Black-and-white Warbler Mar. 25 (AE). Two Lark Buntings were discovered at the Poultry Health Lab north of Davis Mar. 16 (JR, et al.), and at least one was there two days later (PG). A Grasshopper Sparrow at the usual breeding site west of Nicasio Mar. 27 (AG, WG) was a month ahead of the

species known return dates. However, given how secretive Grasshopper Sparrows are when not breeding, I wonder if they are often present before late April. Two Swamp Sparrows at Palo Alto Baylands Mar. 17 (CR; one seen Mar. 22, BB) certainly were present all winter.

The rarest bird on SE Farallon Island was a female Tri-colored Blackbird Mar. 8-14 (PRBO). To many such species common on Pt. Reyes, the 18 miles of ocean constitutes a formidable barrier.

Observers: Herb Andrews, Stephen F. Bailey, Bill Bousman, Kurt Campbell, Rotary Natural Science Center, Santa Cruz Bird Club, Herold Connon, Art Edwards (AE), Al Eisner (AIE), Carter Faust, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Peter Gottschling, Jeff Greenhouse, Carol Kahler (CaK), Charley Kahler (CK), Bill Keener, Bruce LaBar, Donna Lion, Ann Macpherson, many observers (mob), Robin May, George Mealy, Joseph Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jay Penniman), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Ed Pike, Cliff Richer, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dennis Serdehely, Maury Stern, Bill Stone, Chris Swarth, Ron Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, David Trollman (DT) David Wimpfheimer, Collette Wirback, Larry Wirback, David Yee, Jon Zabaskis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY,

Observations Editor

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,

University of California,

Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507 or Joseph Morlan at

524-7421)

FLASH!

National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America is in stock at the Book Nest at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Tiburon.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Mono Lake Research Bill

Legislation appropriating \$250,000 for a study of the impact of Mono Basin diversions by Los Angeles has neared final approval in the California Legislature.

The Senate passed AB 1614 by a vote of 33 to 1. The bill now returns to the Assembly, which passed the bill in August, for approval of minor amendments, before it goes to the Governor. He is expected to sign it; the Resources Agency announced its support of the bill in March.

The city of Los Angeles has diverted the tributary streams of Mono Lake since 1941. The lake's rapidly shrinking waters and increasing salinity threaten one of California's most important wildlife habitat areas. Mono Lake provided critical nesting, feeding and resting habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds.

In a landmark opinion last year, the California Supreme Court applied the public trust doctrine to diversions from the lake and said that the public's interest in environmental, recreational and aesthetic values at Mono Lake must be considered along with the rights of the city of Los Angeles for the Basin Water. Litigation is now pending before a federal court in Sacramento.

Mono Lake is back to 1975 levels, a time when the ecosystem was healthier. The state's appropriation, therefore, comes at an opportune time. Mono Lake reached its low point in 1982, after dropping 46 feet, when spring populations of brine shrimp declined drastically and nesting gulls were decimated by lack of food and maurauding predators. In the last two years record runoff from winter snowpacks has raised the water level ten feet. The wildlife populations are being revitalized.

The study is expected to confirm that increasing salinity caused by the dropping lake level will ultimately destroy the lake's ecosystem. It should help determine what level is necessary to sustain this ancient body of water.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.** in the GGAS office. All GGAS members interested in conservation issues are invited to attend. Members living in San Francisco who would like to attend meetings held in San Francisco should phone Art Feinstein at 282-5937. A SF section of the committee is being organized.

THERE IS A BIRD ATTACKING MY WINDOW

Robins and mockingbirds are extremely territorial during nesting, and will defend rigorously their territory against intruders, real or perceived. When the bird sees itself in reflection in a window it simply follows its defensive instincts and attacks the invader. To stop the attacks the reflective surface must be treated in some way to render it opaque. Cleanser applied to the outside surface with a sponge and allowed to dry will solve the problem. Putting up silhouettes of predatory birds will not help because the surface will still reflect. For the same reason drawing the curtains will not help.

This aggressive behavior normally lasts about three weeks, while birds are courting and nesting. Once the eggs have hatched the attacks stop; the parents are busy caring for the nestlings.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

I received an inquiry from a reader regarding the combination and reclassification of the Audubon's Warbler and the Myrtle Warbler. Having noted several changes in recent years (Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles are now Northern Orioles and the Gilded Flicker, Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Flickers are now the Common Flicker), I did a bit of research.

Since the beginning of time men have classified the world around them: plants, animals and birds. In early times all that was necessary was to know which birds (or plants or animals) were edible, which were dangerous and which had usable parts. Later, general categories developed: "sea birds", "birds of prey". By the end of the 19th century, structural characteristics such as feet and bills were studied as a means of classification of individuals.

Taxonomy is the classification and arrangement of plants and animals based on their similarities and differences. A Swedish botanist, Karl von Linne (Linnaeus, -1707-78), devised the basis for what is our modern system of taxonomy. The process is not a simple one. Because of nature's random invention (hybridization, geographical variation, etc.) the results of comparison cannot easily be forced into man's tidy cubbyholes. In judging similarities between similar life forms a key question is whether such likenesses are the result of adaptations to similar environments; e.g. are penguins of the south polar region closely related to Great Auks of northern oceans? Despite obvious similarities such as sea-going, fish-eating habits, taxonomists believe the penguin is from an ancient line of birds and is related most closely to the loons. The Great Auk is more recently evolved

and closer to the gulls on the phylogenetic tree (the order in which they evolved). The use of biochemical analysis is a recently-devised means of helping to solve this problem.

Studying how species evolve enables scientists to follow races or subspecies as they progress toward becoming a distinct species. Some bird populations, such as those mentioned, are spread across a large area where one can see a progression of forms as they interbreed. Where ranges of the Audubon's Warbler and Myrtle Warbler overlap, there is extensive interbreeding and hybridization or blending so that one may say that these are not separate species, but races of a single species.

To differentiate species and place them in their proper phylogenetic sequence is done by serious research and testing, using structural characters (such as bills), behavioral characters (such as type of nest built), habitat and distribution and biochemical analysis of various bodily substances, especially egg-white proteins.

Despite modern techniques we are far from answering all the major questions regarding taxonomy. Unraveling relationships among the huge order of the world's perching birds (Passeriformes) has barely begun.

This is merely a brief explanation. Thanks, Iris, for your question. I hope I haven't raised more questions than I have answered!

—MEG PAULETICH



FARALLON ISLANDS TRIPS

GGAS will sponsor boat trips to circle the Farallon Islands on June 24 and July 1. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins, shearwaters, albatross, humpbacked whales and several other species of marine mammals.

Reservations can be made by sending \$25 per person with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Checks should be made payable to GGAS. Space for the trips is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. When requesting reservations, please indicate if the alternate trip is acceptable if your first choice of dates is filled.

DESERT TRIP

This spring's annual desert birding trip led by Dr. Stephen F. Bailey will concentrate all four days (May 12-15) on the eastern Mojave Desert National Scenic Area. This remote, relatively unspoiled area is probably the most beautiful of California's deserts. Along the spectacular mountain canyons and hidden oases it boast the worlds most outstanding Joshua Tree forests. Among the more elusive target birds are Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Gray Vireo and Bendire's, Crissal and LeConte's Thrashers.

Call Steve at 548-9507.

WOODPECKER WEEKEND

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey's only class at Albany Adult School this summer will cover woodpeckers and other tree-hole-nesting birds. Details will follow. As an extension, Steve will lead a weekend trip on July 7-8 to Sagehen

Creek Field Station, where U.C. biologists have surveyed all the nest trees in Sagehen Basin. Most Sierra hole-nesters are present, including Black-backed Woodpecker. Nesting Goshawks are also likely but not promised. Because we will be staying at the field station and probably sharing their meals, please call Steve immediately if you are interested (548-9507).

NATURE SOUND SOCIETY

The second meeting of the society, sponsored by the Natural Sciences Department, Oakland Museum, will be held Saturday, May 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the museum in it's classroom. The subject will be "Using Natural Sounds in Education: the Museum Perspective."

A class "Tuning into Birds" sponsored by the Natural Sciences Guild, will be offered on May 26-27 at the museum. For information phone 273-3884.

WILDFOWL ART SHOW

The annual Wildfowl Festival will be held June 23-24 at the Red Lion Inn, Sacramento. This show features an exhibition/competition of hand-carved birds in which species of both North American waterfowl and songbirds are represented.

During both days a colorful exhibit of original wildlife art will be on view. The show will also offer painting and carving contests and demonstrations.

The Wildfowl Festival is sponsored by the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association, a non-profit organization for the promotion of bird art. For more information call Hillary Hulen at the GGAS office.

MONO LAKE BENEFIT EVENTS

Poetry Reading by Ed Drummond

Sponsored by the Sierra Club with some of the proceeds going to Mono Lake, Ed Drummond, Keat's Prize Winner (1973 and 74) and National Poetry Award Winner (U.K. 1979), and now a San Francisco resident, will read from his poetry. It will be Sunday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. A donation of \$5 (\$4 for students and seniors) may be made to the Sierra Club at 658-7470.

July Fourth Bay Cruise

The beautiful 75 foot sports yacht, ARGO, will leave the St Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco at 3:30 p.m. to cruise the Bay amidst other yachts and sailboats. A naturalist will be aboard to explain about birds and beasts seen. About 6:30 a sumptuous roast beef buffet supper will be served. By 8:30 we'll get into position to watch the fireworks. Docking time will be about 10:30 p.m. The Fourth falls on a Wednesday this year, so this is a gala way to get away without going very far.

The fee for the 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. cruise is \$48 for reservations received before June 2 and \$51 after that date. The limit is 65 persons and last year we were sold out early. There will be no refunds unless the trip is canceled. Mail your check payable to Mono Lake Committee with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to July Cruise, % M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708., or phone her at 526-1260.

Cruise to Glacier Bay

The Mono Lake Committee sponsored cruise to Glacier Bay by way of

the Inside Passage in June 1985 is on and you are invited to join the adventure. The new Sitmar liner, FAIRSKY, will sail from San Francisco on June 15, 1985 for an unforgettable 14-day cruise. There will be stops of four to 16 hours at eight ports to allow plenty of time for sight-seeing in Canada and southeast Alaska.

By reserving space now we can obtain 1984 prices. Fares vary with location and number in a cabin, but there is substantial savings to our members and part of the amount paid will be a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake. For full details, send a self-addressed 4½"x 9½" stamped envelope with your request to: Alaska in '85, % M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

Jon Zablackis — Director-at-Large. Jon is a native of Oakland now living in Richmond. His family has lived in the Bay Area since the 1880's. His father was in the U.S. Navy and much of Jon's youth was spent on the East Coast in Virginia and Rhode Island. There he became interested in birds through the Junior Audubon program. He went to high school in Palo Alto and studied physical sciences at UC Berkeley. In addition to birding and conservation activities, Jon's other interests include travel, reading and music. He works as an accounting assistant for Cal Performances at UC. He joined GGAS in 1976 and has been active on the Field Trips, Extended Field Trips and the Conservation Committees. He serves on the East Bay Citizen's Advisory Committee for the State Coastal Conservancy. Jon was president of GGAS 1981-83.

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch is an environmental and educational organization which is sponsored by four Bay Area Audubon chapters. It maintains three environmental centers, two in addition to the original Ranch. The second property, Audubon Cypress Grove, is still a privately owned preserve and is being slowly given to Audubon Canyon Ranch. The many buildings, 104 years old, will eventually house a study facility directed toward the marine environment alongside the property. The deep water of Tomales Bay, the beaches, the tidal flats, the meadow uplands and fresh-water Livermore Marsh will serve as outdoor laboratories for students. This facility comprises 123 acres.

In addition, the Ranch own 179 acres around the Bay, including the just dredged and restored Olema Marsh, the west shore lands known as Shields Marsh, and numerous small tidal flats and beaches along the eastern shoreline of the Bay. Hog and Duck Islands and the delta of Walker Creek lie in the Ranch's ownership.

The third property is known as Bouverie Audubon Preserve, and is under the direct supervision of Madrone Audubon.

Bouverie Audubon Preserve (BAP) is situated alongside Hwy. 12 in the Sonoma Valley near Glen Ellen. It is still in private ownership and is being slowly given to ACR. This preserve comprises 430 acres which include a wooded canyon with a year round creek, a magnificent waterfall with adjoining historic cave, upland oak groves, chaparral covered hillsides and meadows filled with wildflowers in spring. The many buildings, now in private use, will eventually become an educational center.

Currently, Madrone Audubon is training a second class of 21 docents to work with school children in the preserve. Other programs for walks and study are offered to guided groups. The Preserve is not otherwise open to the public.

At Volunteer Canyon, ACR, weekend classes continue to be offered by Ray Peterson in May:

5-6 Egrets and Herons with Helen Pratt.

19-20 Capture/Identify/Release with Ray Peterson.

Friends of ACR met to work at Volunteer Canyon on Feb. 25; 57 people came to work! Trails were cleared, weeds removed and lunch and dinner were served. A great time was had by all.

During May, Madrone Audubon members are weekend volunteer hosts at ACR.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS

From

In Memory of

Ray Bell, Sr.

Harold Greer

Dr. Max Levinger

Ernest Levinger

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of

Mrs. Erna Heims

Wilma Kang

Richard Leinbach

Millard & Ruth Caldwell

Mrs. C. H. Gregory

Emeline Geisendorfer

Estelle Johnson

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has reported it's slate of nominees for officers and directors for GGAS for 1984-85 at the March Board meeting. The slate is shown below in the ballot. Those elected will begin their terms of office on June 1, 1984.

To vote you must use the ballot with the mailing label affixed to the back. No facsimile ballots will be counted.

BALLOT

(All offices are for one-year terms)

1st Vice President	Arthur Feinstein	<input type="checkbox"/>
2nd Vice President	Shirley Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary	Nicola Selph	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Dement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Ross Jennings	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Directors are for three year terms)

West Bay Director	Peter Allen	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Bay Direstor	Chris Swarth	<input type="checkbox"/>

This ballot must be returned to the GGAS office no later than May 21 to be counted. You may vote for any or all of the candidates by placing an "x" in the box following the candidate's name.

CHEEP THRILLS BIRD
COUNT — DATE CHANGE

The date for the Cheep Thrills Spring Bird Count has been **changed to Sunday, June 3rd**. Please note the new date; the announcement in the last GULL is otherwise correct. If you have not already made plans to attend, do so — the count needs your help, and the rewards are great. Write Kurt Campbell at P.O. Box 268 Cotati, CA 94928 or Call him at (707) 644-0104.

WELCOME

To Ruth Dement who is Corresponding Secretary as a volunteer, and whose name is on the ballot.

To Leon Abrams who has volunteered to be Program Committee chairman.

Farewell! To Trudi Jackson who is to be married and will live and work in Stockholm.

To Diane Roukes who is off to a new job in Santa Cruz. Thank you, both, and best wishes!



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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OFFICERS

President Dan Murphy (546-0074) *
First Vice President,
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Recording Secretary, Nicola Selph (526-6631) *
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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

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The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.